✱ Chapter 8 ✱

IS THAT CLEAR, KUNOICHI-DONO?
YOU MUST CATCH THE NINJA INTRUDER.
THAT IS YOUR NEXT ORDER...

.....
HOW STRANGE...
YOU APPEAR TO BE A JIZO BUDDHA STATUE NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT YOU
pat pat
...
Silence
CLACK
PRAISE BE.

PLEASE DON'T PLACE IT BEFORE ME LIKE AN OFFERING!
MITSUHIDE-DONO, YOU TOLD ME YOU WISHED TO SEE MY TRANSFORMATION, SO I!
POOF
T'IS A REWARD FOR PROTECTING NOBUNAGA-SAMA FROM THE VILLAIN.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, DID YOU HEAR MY COMMAND?
YES I SHALL CERTAINLY CAPTURE THE VILLAIN--
I SHALL EXPOSE HIS MASTER.
PROTECT
NOBUNAGA-SAMA
I wish to believe his words from back then
Though I worry about Mitsuhide-dono's actions last night...

Stomp Stomp tomp
HEY! HIME-SANNN!!!
I CAME TO FREE YOU FROM YOUR BIRDCAGE!
LET'S GO ON A DATE! A DATE!
BAM
BOTH OF YOU GREET ME WITH FROWNS ON YOUR FACES? HOW UNWELCOMING!
...
PLEASE DO NOT ENTER MY ROOM AS YOU PLEASE, HIDEYOSHI-DONO.
Transcendence
TAP TAP
...
Now that Hideyoshi has learnt of Kikyou's true identity, I wish to avoid situations where the three of us are together
SINCE HE'S COME ALL THIS WAY, I SHALL ACCOMPANY HIM OUTSIDE FOR A WHILE, NI-SAMA
MORESO, I DON'T RECALL CONFINING HER TO A BIRDCAGE.
I SEE, I SEE.
WELL THEN, HIME-SAN, LET'S GO!
WHAT?
LET HER OUT OF HER CAGE AS YOU WILL. SHE REMAINS MY LITTLE BIRD.

HIDEYOSHI-DONO
HIDEYOSHI-DONO! JUST WHERE ARE WE GOING?
DRAG
DRAG
HM? I DON'T CARE AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU!
PLEASE DON'T JOKE AROUND
It seems he's protecting my secret
LOOK HOW GREAT THE WEATHER IS
IT'D BE A SHAME TO STAY INSIDE, RIGHT?
YOU DO THIS TO MONITOR MY MOVE-MENTS...?
He may have been suspicious of Mitsuhide-dono at the council...
HOW PERCEP-TIVE.

OUCH~
THAT'S RIGHT, I WANT TO SPEND DAY AND NIGHT EMBRACING YOU WITH THESE ARMS...
I HUMBLY REFUSE.
Pinch
Transcendence
Did I put too much force into it?
TSK
MY LADY, I HUMBLY ASK THAT YOU CAPTURE HIDE-YOSHI-SAMA
THAT SAKI-CHI..
.....
HIDEYOSHI-SAMA
UGH, SAKICHI.
BA-DUMP

TAP
ARE YOU PERCHANCE PRINCESS KIKYOU?
YES.
PLEASE PARDON MY RUDENESS.
AH~ THIS IS MY PAGE, SAKICHI
.....
HE IS SURPRISINGLY WEAK AGAINST PRESSURE?
WELL~
I'M HAPPY SINCE IT'S THE PRINCESS WHO'S CAPTURING ME,
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I WANT TO FLEE~
Grab
OH...

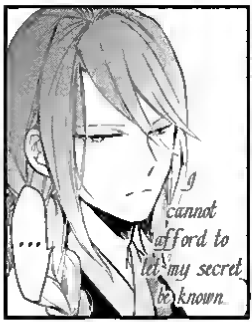
I WAS THINKING OF GOING TO LAKE BIWA WITH THE PRINCESS NOW...
N-NO! WAIT!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
IT IS THANKS TO YOU THAT TWENTY INQUIRIES WILL BE SETTLED.
TWENTY?!
CRASH
PLEASE DEVOTE YOURSELF TO YOUR WORK.
...
HIDEYOSHI-SAMA, OFF WE GO!
AH, MY STOMACH IS SUDDENLY...!
Please devote yourself to your work.
PLEASE DEVOTE YOURSELF TO YOUR WORK.

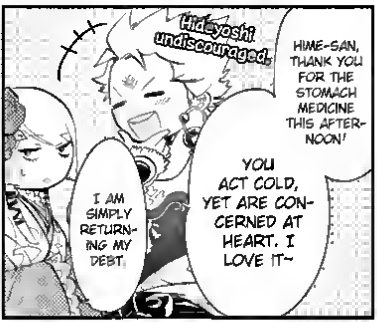
SORRY! I CAN'T DO IT RIGHT NOW!
HIDEYOSHI-SAMA! THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE! LOCKING YOURSELF UP INTO YOUR ROOM IMMEDIATELY AFTER RETURNING ..!
.. A LETTER?
CLUNK
"ENCLOSED IS STOMACH MEDICINE TAKE TWO TO THREE PILLS TOGETHER WITH BOILED WATER."
"ALSO, STAY WARM AND REST."
This, I guess?
FUR-THER...?
Ouch ouch...
Further

Puff
Further it be not poison
SO DAMN CUTE...

I haven't achieved any results today.
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT NOBUNAGA-SAMA LAST NIGHT,
BUT GOING TO VISIT NOW IS...
No
Knock
NOBUNAGA-SAMA!
HOW CARELESS OF YOU TO SLIP OUT AT THIS LATE HOUR.
EVERYONE IS... WHY HAVE YOU ALL GATHERED HERE?
IT WAS NOBUNAGA-SAMA'S SUDDEN WHIM.
RIGHT NOW, WE'LL BE GOIN—
Flick

It's the usual Nobunaga-sama...
COME, KIKYOU.
WE'RE GOING TO A GOOD PLACE.


...
I cannot afford to let my secret be known.


Hideyoshi undiscouraged.
HIME-SAN, THANK YOU FOR THE STOMACH MEDICINE THIS AFTERNOON!
YOU ACT COLD, YET ARE CONCERNED AT HEART. I LOVE IT~
I AM SIMPLY RETURNING MY DEBT.

SO THE CERTAIN SOMEBODY WAS YOU, HIDEYOSHI-DONO?
HUH, THIS MEDICINE WAS FROM YOU, IEYASU-DONO?
IF YOU WISH TO GIVE THANKS, DIRECT THEM TO IEYASU-DONO
SHOCK
Shock?

OHH... WHAT A GENTLE LIGHT.
How beautiful...
The fireflies shine as if they were stars in the night
THE FIREFLIES OF LAKE BIWA ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD...
TRUE THAT, NOBUNAGA-SAMA!
HOW IS IT? A GOOD PLACE, IS IT NOT?
YES! VERY GOOD
BUT WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY HUNT FOR FIREFLIES...?
A SIMPLE DISTRACTION. I SUFFOCATE IN THE CASTLE
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE UPROAR CAUSED BY THE VILLAIN IS NOT THE ONLY REASON THAT I AM CONSTRAINED
HMPH. WHAT IS THERE TO FEAR?
I'M SURE I ADVISED YOU TO BE PATIENT UNTIL THE INTRUDER IS CAPTURED.

STARE
IS IT ABOUT THE PROPOSAL OF THE THREE POSITIONS?
THIS FELLOW PERSISTS TO NO END
IN THE END, IT WAS DECIDED THAT I WOULD DEPART FOR THE CAPITAL.
I MERELY GAVE YOU THE MODEST ADVICE THAT IT WOULD BE A WASTE TO DECLINE AN OFFICIAL RANK.
HA! DO GO ON!
Snicker

NOBU-NAGA-SAMA, YOU'RE GOING TO THE CAPITAL, HUH...
Oooh.
Wow.
INDEED. EVERYONE WILL LEAVE AZUCHI WITH ME.
I SEE... I WILL BE LONELY.
Was driven away by Nobunaga.

...UHM, IS NOBUYUKI-SAMA NOT ATTENDING TONIGHT?
...ARE YOU CONCERNED?
EVEN LAST NIGHT...
IT SEEMS THE PRINCESS OF AKECHI IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS BROTHER OF MINE!

I thought...
PERHAPS I SHALL DANCE.
Dance
YOU WHISPER ANOTHER MAN'S NAME IN MY ARMS...
I CAN ONLY THINK YOU'RE TRYING TO STIR ME UP.
PULL
THAT MAKES ME A LITTLE JEALOUS.

Transcendence
*TLN: HISTORICALLY, THIS POEM IS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH ODA NOBUNAGA, BUT NOT WRITTEN BY HIM.
*To the world beneath the heavens,
a human's life of fifty years
is as is a fantastical dream.
IF EVERYONE IS TO DIE,
THEN, I WILL LIVE TO MY HEART'S CONTENT IN THE TIME I AM ALIVE.
AND LIVE FOR MY DREAM.
FOR THE BLOOD I HAVE SPILT, I WILL SURELY END THE STRIFE...
AND BLOW THE WINDS OF JOY THROUGHOUT THE LAND.
Nobunaga-sama's dream... Everyone's dream...
my heart had ruptured.
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP BA-DUMP

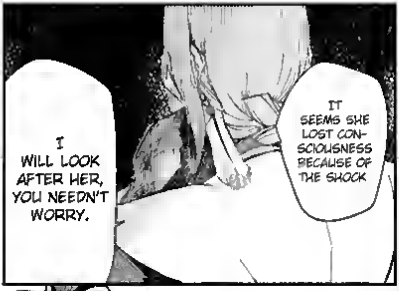
My...
dream.
wish to
see the riveting
world Nobunaga-
sama will create.
Clench
I,
too.

The future ahead of us
.....
YOU SAY NOBUYUKI IS FEELING UNWELL?
I KNOW NOT WHAT HE FRETS ABOUT.
BUT BEFORE SUCH A SCENERY, EVERYTHING SEEMS INSIGNIFICANT
Might it be that...
Transcendence
he came here for Nobuyuki-sama?
I PRAY THAT WE MIGHT BEHOLD THIS SIGHT AGAIN SOMEDAY... WITH EVERYONE NEXT TIME.
...
Gasp
KIKYOU!
Blood lust...!

CLANG
I SEE...
NOBUNAGA-SAMA!

SWOOSH
KIKYOU, STEP BACK.
IT SEEMS I WAS CORRECT IN THINKING THAT WOMAN IS 'FAVORED'.
POOF
...!
The range of the smokescreen is vast
If I...
follow this man right now...
clench

Transcentente



NOBUNAGA-SAMA! ARE YOU OKAY?
WRETCHED VILLAIN!
RAN, THERE'S NO POINT IN PURSUING HIM TOO FAR
MORE IMPORTANTLY IS KIKYOU UNHARMED?

I feel uneasy.
I hope it's just needless worry.
I pray that the lord who hired that ninja and my master is an outsider.
Even so, this path is...

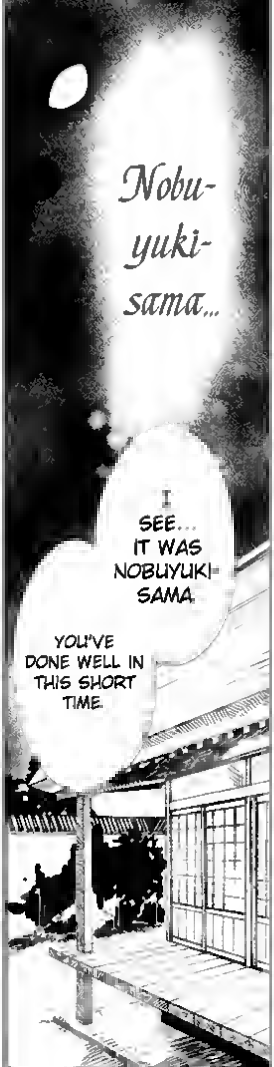
This red is...
Transcendence

!
WHAT IS IT, MOMOJI?
Swoosh
.. NO, IT'S NOTHING.

Swoosh
.....
THE WIND IS VOCIFEROUS...

...KUNOICHI-DONO THIS IS YOUR ORDER.
SO THE TIME IS NOW... HUH?

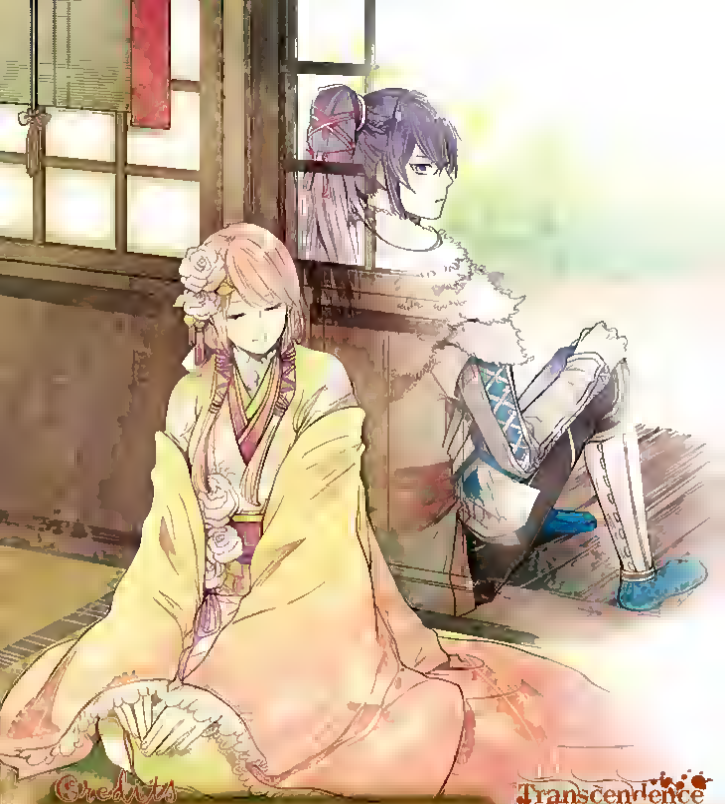
DELIVER ME ODA NOBUNAGA'S CORPSE.


Nobuyuki-sama...
I SEE... IT WAS NOBUYUKI-SAMA.
YOU'VE DONE WELL IN THIS SHORT TIME.

Huh...
PERHAPS I GAVE YOU TOO MUCH FREEDOM
THIS IS AN ORDER
DISPOSE OF ODA NOBUNAGA.
What is he saying..?
I am to...
YOU ARE MY LITTLE BIRD, NO?
Sweet
Sweet
kill Nobunaga-sama?
Clang

Continued in volume 3

Transcendence



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Geten no Hana
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Volume 02
Chapter 08

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